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W E A R D A L E

R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R

O F H E A L T H

for the

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

No. 6 Health Area,
" Springfield ",
WILLINGTON,
Crook, Co. Durham.

Tel: Willington 375.

P U B L I C H E A L T H O F F I C E R S

O F T H E C O U N C I L

****

Medical Officer of Health - G.A. MACGREGOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector - R.G. SUDDICK, Cert. R.S.I. Lond.

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WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1961

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Weardale Rural District area for the year 1961.

The population continued its downward trend in numbers, there being an excess of deaths over births per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - a trend which has been evident for a number of years now. It is also noticeable that the death rate during the last decade was considerably higher and the birth rate lower than the comparable national figures. Deaths from diseases involving the cardio-vascular system were 55% of the total deaths. The infantile death rate figure of 41.66 although the highest during the past ten years has little statistical significance because of the smallness of population.

The only infectious disease which was prominent during the year was Measles of a mild variety. There were no cases of Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, or Poliomyelitis although there were 3 cases of the latter in the adjacent district of Crook. Sporadic cases of Tuberculosis, 5 in number, occurred and the sources of infection were investigated. In connection with the prevention of Tuberculosis intensive B.C.G. immunisation was begun in schools and, by the end of 1961, the majority of pupils had been given this method of protection. Although exact figures are not available the response to the B.C.G. campaign was over 70% acceptance.

The presence of cases of Poliomyelitis in the neighbouring district of Crook led to intensification of anti-poliomyelitis immunisation with Salk vaccine and the response was good.

The year saw the introduction of the consolidated and revised Public Health Act, 1961 and also legislation to tighten up the hygiene of slaughter houses and steps were taken to review, and advise the owners of, the various small slaughter houses in the area.

In regard to housing, plans were nearing completion for the construction of 24 bungalows for the aged.

A seperate report by your Public Health Inspector is also included in this report.

In conclusion I wish to record my thanks to the Council, to my colleagues and the staff of the Council and the general practitioners for their cordial co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

G.A. MACGREGOR.

CONDITION OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year) ...	8,350
Area (In Acres)	99,652
Number of Inhabited Houses (Mid 1961)...	3,136
Rateable Value (Mid 1961)...	£113,439
Product of Penny Rate	£428

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	114	64	50
Illegitimate	6	4	2
	120	68	52

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	14.37
General Birth Rate (England and Wales)	17.4

STILL BIRTHS	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	-	3

Rate per 1,000 (live and still)...	14.73

DEATHS	Total	Males	Females
	141	71	70

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	16.88
Death Rate (England and Wales)	12.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal Causes ...	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Total	Males	Female
Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	5	3	2

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	1	2

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births ...	41.66
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	21.4
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births legitimate	43.85
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births illegitimate ...	-
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	25.00
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	8.33
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	32.52
Deaths from Cancer	18
Deaths from Measles	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough	-

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate Under 1 year	Birth Rate
1956	13.79	9.17	12.12
1957	15.00	7.93	14.11
1958	14.28	-	13.61
1959	14.24	27.77	12.20
1960	18.88	26.30	12.62
1961	16.88	41.66	14.37

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted To Hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	-	-	-
Measles	90	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Pnuemonia	2	-	6
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Tuberculosis	5		3

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 6 years.

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1956	-	-	2	-
1957	-	-	5	-
1958	-	-	1	-
1959	-	-	4	-
1960	-	-	-	-
1961	-	-	2	-

CAUSES OF DEATHS - Total Number 141.

		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	1
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia...	1	1
16.	Diabetes	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	11
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	20	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
20.	Other heart diseases	4	9
21.	Other circulatory diseases	2	1
22.	Influenza	-	-
23.	Pnuemonia...	2	4
24.	Bronchitis	1	2
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia and prostrate	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	2	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	13
33.	Motor accidents	-	-
34.	All other accidents	3	4
35.	Suicide	2	-
36.	Homicide and operations of War	-	-
		71	70

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1961

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases for the year:

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	5 - 9 yrs.	10 - 14 yrs.	15 - 24 yrs.	25 - 44 yrs.	45 - 64 yrs.	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	2	16	21	46	5	-	-	-	-	90
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pnuemonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
TOTAL	5	-	-	-	2	1	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS

Year	New Cases						Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1956	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1957	4	1	5	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
1958	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
1959	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
1960	2	3	5	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	-	-
1961	5	-	5	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-	-

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

WATER SUPPLY

The water supplies in the Council's Area of supply were well maintained and no shortage arose.

Samples of water were taken, including 3 private supplies to farms in connection with grants from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and these were found to be satisfactory.

No major works were carried out.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The new sewage works and sewerage schemes at Bridge End, Frosterley, Eastgate and Rookhope were completed during the year.

Schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal at Edmundbyers and new sewage works at Stanhope were under consideration.

No major improvements to the existing sewerage works in the district were carried out. A short length of sewer was laid across the stream near Waskerley Bridge to connect the properties at Milburn's Yard to the Council's sewer.

SANITARY ACCOMODATION

The position regarding the installation of water closets gradually improves and in the larger villages of Wolsingham, Frosterley and Stanhope the number of dry closets is very small indeed.

Property owner's took advantage of the Council's Scheme, allowing a grant of half the cost up to a maximum of £20 for water closet conversions.

During the year grants were paid involving 15 properties. With the new new sewers now laid at Hill End, Eastgate and Rookhope the position should further improve in the coming months.

Including conversions otherwise carried out and under the Housing Improvement Grant Schemes, the types of closets at the end of the year was:-

Water Closets	-	2452
Ash-Closets	-	559
Ashpit-Privies	-	150

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of refuse was carried out satisfactorily by the three vehicles engaged on this work. The estimated weight of refuse removed was 5,778 tons, the vehicles covering 20,452 miles.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Continued)

No extensions to the areas served were made.

The main part of the refuse was disposed of at the tip at Lanehead Quarry, Crawleyside and the remainder at Cowshill and Rookhope. Negotiations were in progress for additional tips at Browns Houses Quarry, Frosterley and Harperley Bank Quarry.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The whole time operator was engaged on the disinfestation of dwellings, business premises, farms, refuse tips and sewer fields. Treatment of the sewers is carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

Of properties inspected, treatment was carried out on 167 dwellings, 8 business premises and farms and 20 other properties (refuse tips, sewer fields).

Work on business premises and farms is recoverable on the basis of actual cost plus overhead expenses.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of the shops and food premises were carried out the standard of these being generally satisfactory.

Inspections were also carried out regarding registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the sale of ice cream and making of sausage.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1st April, 1961 was the appointed day under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958. The works recommended to bring the six private slaughterhouses in the district up to the required standard were carried out.

Food was condemned as unfit for sale or human consumption on 48 instances (mainly tinned foods) and in each case the food was surrendered voluntarily.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was necessary regarding smoke abatement there being few industries of the type associated with smoke nuisance.

FACTORIES ACTS

Inspections were carried out under the Factories Acts and minor defects were remedied in two instances following informal action.

TENTS, VANS Etc.

Inspections were carried out under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 in connection with the issue of site licences.

At the end of the year licences for 20 sites involving 329 caravans had been issued.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits undertaken by the Department during the year:-

Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	163
Housing(Overcrowding)	6
Sanitary Conveniences	66
Drainage	54
Water Supply	48
Food Premises	168
Shops Act	54
Dairies	8
Slaughter Houses	24
Tents, Vans etc.	44
Factories and Workplaces	54
Keeping of Animals	5
Insanitary ashpits and receptacles	124
Offensive accumulations	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests	74

NUISANCES ETC.

The following table gives the principal nuisances dealt with by means of notices:-

	No. of informal notices served	No. of Statutory notices served	Defects Remedied
Public Health & Housing Acts	16	0	16
Sanitary Conveniences	6	0	6
Drainage	5	0	5
Food Premises	1	0	1
Slaughter Houses	5	0	5
Factories & Workplaces	1	0	1
Ashpits & receptacles	5	0	5

HOUSING

No new dwellings were erected by the Council during the year, but 10 Aged Persons Bungalows were in course of erection at Wolsingham.

The property known as Bridge House, Ireshopeburn was converted into 2 seperate dwellings, the work being carried out by the Council's direct labour force.

The five dwellings at West Thornley Colliery near Tow Law were the subject of a Closing Order.

Four new dwellings (One at Wolsingham, one at Thornley and two at Harperley (Police)) were erected.

Interviews and inspections were carried out under the Standard and Discretionary Grant Schemes. During the year 12 applications for the Standard Grant and 47 for the larger scheme were approved.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

R.G. SUDDICK.